

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain(s) under examination in the application is presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier. Those claims not cancelled or withdrawn but amended by the current amendment utilize the following notations for amendment: 1. deleted matter is shown by strikethrough for six or more characters and double brackets for five or less characters; and 2. added matter is shown by underlining.

1-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling [[the]] a volume of process water in a process water pond, the method comprising:

~~on condition the volume of process water in the process water pond reaches a predetermined high volume level,~~ transferring thermal energy from a power plant to the process water pond to increase an evaporation rate of the process water in the process water pond when a volume of the process water in the process water pond is at or above a first level; and

~~on condition the volume of process water in the process water pond reaches a predetermined low volume level,~~ transferring thermal energy from the power plant to a cooling tower when the volume of the process water in the process water pond is at or below a second level, the second level being less than the first level.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein transferring thermal energy from the power plant to the process water pond further comprises:

circulating a coolant between a pond water heat exchanger in thermal communication with process water from the process water pond and a turbine heat exchanger in thermal communication with steam from a steam turbine; and

transferring process water from the process water pond through the pond water heat exchanger for receiving thermal energy from the coolant; and

returning the heated process water from the pond water heat exchanger to the process water pond.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of transferring thermal energy from the power plant to the process water pond includes:

transferring process water from the process water pond into thermal communication with steam from a steam turbine; and

transferring the process water from thermal communication with the steam to the process water pond.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of transferring thermal energy from the power plant to the process water pond further includes receiving low-pressure exhaust steam from the steam turbine into a condenser for transferring thermal energy from the low-pressure steam to the coolant.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~for the steps of transferring~~ the process water has a pH of about 1 to 5.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~for the steps of transferring~~ the process water includes phosphoric acid.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~for the steps of transferring~~ the process water includes at least one of the substances selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, chloride, fluoride, sulfate, ammonia nitrogen, sulfuric acid, fluosilicic acid, silica, ~~[[and]] fluosilicates, and combinations thereof.~~

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein ~~the step of~~ transferring thermal energy from a power plant to the process water pond concentrates the process water from a first concentration to a second concentration~~[[; and]]~~, the process further ~~comprises~~ comprising:

pumping the concentrated process water with the second concentration to
a production facility; and

using the concentrated process water with the second concentration in a
production process.

26. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, wherein the step of transferring includes: transferring a portion of the process water from the process water pond into thermal communication with steam from a steam turbine of the power plant; and transferring the portion of process water from thermal communication with the steam to the process water pond.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein ~~the step of~~ transferring includes:
circulating coolant between a pond water heat exchanger in thermal communication with process water from the process water pond and a turbine heat exchanger in thermal communication with steam from a steam turbine of the power plant;

transferring a portion of process water from the process water pond through the pond water heat exchanger for receiving thermal energy from the coolant; and

returning the heated portion of process water from the pond water heat exchanger to the process water pond.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the substances include phosphoric acid.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein for ~~the steps of~~ transferring, pumping and using, the first concentration of process water includes process water containing about 0.5% to 2.0% phosphoric acid, and the second concentration of process water includes process water containing a greater percentage of phosphoric acid than the first concentration.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein for ~~the step of~~ using, the production process includes a phosphoric acid wet-process production method.

31-54. (Cancelled)